

Shavuot 5779 - Schedule

Dear Kesher family,

Below please find the schedule of services and learning opportunities for Shavuot, which will begin God willing on Motzaei Shabbat, June 8. Shavuot commemorates God's giving of the Torah to the People of Israel. There is no medium of worship on Shavuot - no Matza, no Sukkah or Lulav, no Shofar or Menorah - just us and the Torah. Therefore, especially on Shavuot, our observance of the holiday is heightened with a commitment to the study of Torah.

To that end, on Shavuot there is a centuries-old custom to stay up all night studying Torah, a tradition which Kesher is proud to take part in. On Shavuot night at Kesher I'm sure you'll find the presenters fantastic, the topics they'll be discussing interesting and informative, and the togetherness and sense of community second to none. Those of us who join together always have an enjoyable and uplifting experience. Join us for all or part of Shavuot learning in our Beit Midrash, followed by Shacharit at sunrise!

In addition, we are proud to have again this year a special tikkun leil shavuot program for Junior Congregation and Middle School age children. Michael Goldman will be running the program for JC age (4th through 6th grade), and I will be delivering two sessions to the middle school aged children. See below for the schedule and description.

The learning on Shavuot night this year is once again sponsored by Dr. William Zeitz, in memory of his wife, Dr. Baila Zeitz A"H and by her children and grandchildren. May Bill and his family continue to have the zechut of sponsoring this night in her memory for years to come, and may all the learning over Shavuot serve as a source for her aliyat neshama. Please do your best to join us for all or part of the evening!

With warm wishes for a chag sameach,

RAB

Shabbat Afternoon/Motzaei Shabbat, June 8

Mincha – 8:05 (No seudah shlishit in shul)

Between Mincha and Maariv - Rabbi Block

The Bill of Rights and Halacha - Part I

Slanderers, Philanderers, and Holding 'em Accountable: Halacha's View on Freedom of the Press

This is the first in an ongoing series of classes on Halacha's perspective on rights guaranteed to Americans in the Bill of Rights.

One of the bedrocks of American democracy is a free press. People are permitted to publish and disseminate information without recrimination or restriction from the government. With constant claims of Fake News, of assault on the Free Press, and with distrust of the media establishment at an all time low, we will explore the fundamental question: from the perspective of halacha, how free should the press be? Should media have carte blanche to publish whatever it wants? Does it matter if the information is to rebuke a wrongdoer or protect the public from someone who could potentially cause physical, emotional or financial damage? Is a reporter ever bound by the strictures of *lashon hara* and *rechilus*, the prohibitions surrounding gratuitous gossip and slander? What about "reporter's privilege," which protects journalists from giving up their sources? Join us for this pre-Shavuot learning opportunity!

Shabbat ends and Yom Tov begins at 9:16 PM.

11:30 PM

[The Dr. Baila Zeitz z"l Tikkun Leil Shavuot \(Shavuot All Night Learning Program\)](#)

Tikkun Leil Shavuot for Youth -

11:30 PM-12:30 AM - Tikkun Leil Shavuot program with Michael for **Junior Congregation age children (5th and 6th graders).**

Tikkun Leil Shavuot with Rabbi Block for **7th and 8th graders.**

11:30-12 - On Peer Pressure

12:00-12:30 - "Ask the Rabbi whatever you want!"

1. 11:30 PM – Jeffrey Rubenstein

What is Midrash and How Does it Make Sense?

Few things are both as fundamental to rabbinic Judaism and as misunderstood as midrash--rabbinic biblical interpretation. The basic problem is that the biblical text often seems to very clearly say one thing, and midrash "reads" it very differently, or "reads in" a great deal, or offers multiple interpretations. However, the Talmudic rabbis did not distinguish "peshat" from midrash (that is a medieval development); for them, midrash was what the bible meant. Recent developments in literary theory and hermeneutics (the branch of philosophy that deals with interpretation) allow us to make sense of midrash as an interpretive method. Indeed, many theorists argue midrash anticipates these developments in modern literary theory.

2. 12:40 AM – Joe Septimus

Yetzer ha'Rah —The Evil Inclination, My Very Good Friend

The Yetzer ha'Rah, "The Evil Inclination," is a popular religious literary character that is at once colorful, motivating, mischievous & the ultimate sexual enticer. Jewish texts vary in portraying the Yetzer ha'Rah; it being as simple & as complex as humanity itself. We will explore biblical, rabbinic & modern texts, & discuss ancient, medieval, Eastern, & modern concepts to help us understand various approaches to the Yetzer ha'Rah; primarily, whether it is really "evil", & its positive & essential role in human power, development & accomplishment.

3. Approx. 1:40 AM - Nina Cohen

Panic! At the Printshop: Tensions in Transitioning Halakha to Print

Stolen manuscripts, snide rabbinic remarks, and runaway technology? Welcome to the 16th century, when print was new and halakhists lined up on either side of a growing divide over how — and if— texts should be studied and shared. We'll then flash forward to contemporary debates over new discoveries of old texts, and whether they should change accepted halakhic practice.

4. Approx. 2:45 AM – Larry Solomon

Game of Thrones in the Desert

This is a story of the major personalities and houses that tried to control the Jewish people and our narrative in the earliest years – who won, who lost, who lived, and who died in a constant struggle for political and supernatural power.

5. Rabbi Block

Cannibus or Can'tibus: On Marijuana and Halacha

With the potential legalization of marijuana looming, join us for a pre-shacharit discussion about the use of this ancient herb, both medical and recreational. Surprisingly, Jewish sources discuss the use of Marijuana from very early on!

Shacharit - 4:55 AM

Earliest time for the Amidah - 5:24 AM

Sunday, June 9

Second minyan – 9:15 AM

Dvar Torah by Samantha Kur after tefilah.

Mincha - 8:15 PM

Between Mincha and Maariv – Shiur by Joe Septimus

All preparations for the second day of Yom Tov (including setting the table, cooking, lighting yom tov candles) should begin after nightfall, 9:16 PM

Monday, June 10

Shacharit - 9:15 AM

Megillat Ruth

Yizkor - not before 10:30 AM

Join us for a dairy Kiddush following tefilah sponsored by the incoming & outgoing officers of the Board, in recognition of the Keshet Community Security Service (CSS) members who volunteer their time & efforts to ensure the security of our family, friends and community. We are grateful for their commitment to a safer kehila.

Mincha - 8:15 PM

Yom Tov ends - 9:17 PM